



# EVKAF

Newspaper of Goodness and Culture

*"Your compassion will bring compassion."*

May 2025 - Issue: 138



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## Vakıflar Wheelchair Basketball Team Was Honoured With Their Achievements



Vakıflar Wheelchair Basketball Team, which achieved a great success by coming first in the European Cup 2026 qualifying tournament held in Italy, was honoured by its main sponsor Cyprus Evkaf Administration.

During the visit, which took place at the headquarters of the Cyprus Administration of Foundations, Director General Prof. Dr. Mustafa Tümer stated that he was proud of the team's success in the international arena. "You are setting an inspiring example in the society. Your contribution to the promotion of our country is of great value for everyone."

Tümer emphasised that the team's

success has an important impact not only in the arena of sports, but also in terms of social awareness and motivation. "Sport has the power to overcome obstacles and you represent this power in the best way", he said, emphasising the social benefit of sports.

As a result of this great success, the Vakıflar Wheelchair Basketball Team qualified for Euro Cup 3.

In addition, Murat Ekşi, the team captain, managed to be among the top 5 best players with his outstanding performance in the tournament.

## The Cyprus Evkaf Administration Carried Out Important Inspections on Historical Places of Worship and Cemeteries in Southern Cyprus

The Cyprus Evkaf Administration completed its inspections of the mosques and cemeteries in the Limassol region. During the inspections, the situation of important places of worship and cemeteries in the region was evaluated.

The sites visited included the Limassol Mosque (Kebir), the Limassol Köprülü Mosque, the Limassol Lower Binatli Polemitya Mosque and the Limassol Upper Binatli Mosque. In addition, the Ottoman tombs in the garden of

the Mosque Kebir and the tombs in the garden of the Köprülü Mosque were also carefully examined. The condition of the Limassol Turkish Cemetery in the Binatli area was also assessed.

These inspections, which are of great importance for the protection of historical and cultural heritage, aimed to protect places of worship and cemeteries. It is reported that the necessary maintenance and repair works will be planned after the controls.

## Cyprus Evkaf Administration Is Shaping The Future With TEKNOFEST 2025

The Cyprus Evkaf Administration, together with the Goodness Volunteers, encourages young people in the fields of technology and innovation, enabling them to both protect their cultural heritage and develop their technological competences.

In addition, our social responsibility projects continue in line with sustainable development goals. Events such as the Social Innovation Competition organised within the scope of TEKNOFEST will contribute to aligning the foundation's projects with these goals and increasing social benefits.

Evkaf Goodness Volunteers, who participated in the programme, stated that they are very happy and honoured that TEKNOFEST 2025 programme will take place in TRNC

together with young people acting with social responsibility awareness. Through this festival, young people will be raised as versatile individuals by contributing to the development of their scientific, technological and entrepreneurial aspects.

TEKNOFEST 2025 is not only a technology festival for the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, but also a strategic opportunity for the preservation of cultural heritage, education of young people, international cooperation and achieving sustainable development goals.



## Clean Lefke Movement Successfully Organised

In order to raise environmental awareness and to create social awareness, a meaningful environmental event was organised with the contributions of Evkaf Goodness Volunteers, Lefke Municipality and valuable sponsors.

This initiative, organised under the name of "Clean Lefke Movement", was held around the Cengiz Topel Monument, which is one of the symbolic points of the Lefke region.

In addition to the local community, non-governmental organisations, environmental groups and students also showed great interest in the event. Jakhongir Khaydarov, Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Cyprus Office, and his team also participated and supported the event.

During the event, which started in

the morning, 76 volunteers worked with great devotion and collected a total of 167 garbage bags full of waste.

The amount of disposed waste reached 1,100 kilograms. As a result of this intense effort, an area of approximately 50,000 square metres was cleaned and restored to nature. During the event, work was also carried out on waste sorting; recyclable materials such as plastic, glass and metal were separated and properly included in the recycling process.





***Selimiye Mosque, which is considered as one of the most important symbols of Cyprus' cultural heritage, was reopened to worship with a ceremony held recently, following the completion of the extensive restoration works that started in 2019.***

### Historical Background

Selimiye Mosque was started to be built in 1193 as the Cyprus Hagia Sophia Cathedral and completed in 1489. Opened in 1326 by Archbishop Giovanni del Conte Pole in a religious ceremony under the name of St. Sophia, this building was conquered by Lala Mustafa Pasha in 1571 and converted into a mosque. After the conquest, the interior arrangements of the mosque were changed in the style of Turkish architecture.

The minarets of the mosque were specified in the ferman written by Sultan Selim to the Beylerbeyi and Treasurer of Cyprus on 1 May 1572. In this decree, it was ordered to build two minarets for the mosque in Nicosia and one minaret for the mosque in Famagusta. Selimiye Mosque was remodelled by adding two minarets without disturbing its architecture at the time it was a cathedral.

### Waqfs and Charities

The Sultan built a madrasa close to the mosque and endowed a total of 468 shops, 177 rooms, 31 houses and 22 cellars. These waqfs provided important resources for the survival of the Selimiye Mosque. The revenues of the Great Bath, which was

endowed by Lala Mustafa Pasha to be transferred to Sultan Selim's Selimiye Mosque Waqf, were also directed to this waqf. In addition, the revenues of 31 mills established on Başpınar water in Değirmenlik were also connected to the waqf.

### Restoration Process

Selimiye Mosque has been subjected to restoration many times throughout history. The most comprehensive restoration work was carried out by the General Directorate of Foundations of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey. On 14.11.2014, with the agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, restoration works were initiated between 2019-2025. However, due to the Covid-19 outbreak on 17.11.2019, the studies were continued in June 2021.

### Structural Investigations

The plasters and gypsum exterior windows inside the building were removed, and the concrete cover on the upper cover of the building was also removed. Cracks were observed on the vault walls and body walls during the investigations on the building. In line with these findings, static modelling and ground investigation of the building were carried out and retrofitting projects were revised.

### Reinforcement Works

Since Selimiye Mosque is classified as heavily damaged, its interior was supported with steel

profiles. Carbon reinforcement mesh was applied to the vault surfaces, and reinforcement processes were carried out with stainless steels. In addition, the ground on the exterior south façade of the mosque was reinforced with impregnation injection to increase its bearing capacity.

### Strengthening the Minarets

Since Selimiye Mosque is classified as heavily damaged, its interior was supported with steel profiles. Carbon reinforcement mesh was applied to the vault surfaces, and reinforcement processes were carried out with stainless steels. In addition, the floor on the exterior south facade of the mosque was reinforced with impregnation injection to increase its bearing strength.

### Aesthetic and Functional Innovations

During the renovation process, the interior and exterior lighting of the mosque was renewed, and the courtyard and surrounding pavements were covered with travertine stone. In addition, the original doors of the mosque were subjected to conservation procedures and replaced.

### Preservation of Decorations

The pencil decorations exposed during the survey were subjected to conservation and the aesthetic value of the building was preserved. The floor of the mosque was covered with cadroned wooden flooring in accordance with the approved project.



## SULTAN MAHMUD II LIBRARY

*Rising as an elegant example of Ottoman architecture in the heart of Nicosia, opposite the Aziziye Gate of the Selimiye Mosque, the Sultan Mahmud II Library is not only a building, but also a place of memory, a foundation work and a manifestation of a civilisation dedicated to knowledge.*

### Historical Background

This precious library was built in 1829 by Ali Ruhi Efendi, the Governor of Cyprus, on the orders of Sultan Mahmud II (1808-1839), an important figure in the modernisation process of the Ottoman Empire. The building is the first central and official 'State Library' established not only in Nicosia but also in the whole of Cyprus.

Sultan Mahmud Mahmud, while trying to restructure the collapsing state organisation, also showed the importance he attached to science and education in Cyprus. He established a central library system by uniting the private foundation libraries that were scattered until that period.

### Architectural Features

The library is a modest but aesthetic building reflecting the 19th century style of classical Ottoman architecture. The building consists of a portico with arched sides and covered with two small domes, and the main reading hall behind it, covered with a large dome. On the three exterior facades of the library there are plaques with the inscription 'Mashallah' and on the entrance door there is the inscription 'Fiha kütubun kayyime'. The 1244 H (1828/29) dated tughra and inscriptions were engraved by the calligrapher Şeyh Feyzi Dede. A room (probably a 'recess room' or 'supervision room') added later next to the building is still standing with a wooden inscription dated 1245 H (1829/30).

### Poet Hilmi Efendi and the Ode Tradition

As a token of gratitude for the library, the poet Hodja Hilmi Efendi, who belonged to the Mevlevi tradition and was a mountaineer at the Cyprus Idad, wrote a 48 couplet eulogy dedicated to Sultan Mahmud. This ode was written in Celi and Sülüs calligraphy by the calligrapher Feyzi Dede and encircled the interior walls of the library. The Sultan liked this ode so much so that he honoured Hilmi Efendi with the title of 'Reis-üş-Şuara' (President of Poets)

### Waqf and Librarianship Order

Sultan Mahmud II not only had the building constructed, but also decreed by edict that the librarians who would work here would be appointed, their salaries and all expenses would be covered from his own foundation. The salaries of the officers appointed as Hafız-ı Kütüp were designed to cover necessities such as bread, bulgur, meat and butter. This is remarkable in terms of showing the role of the foundation system in social security and sustainable service production.

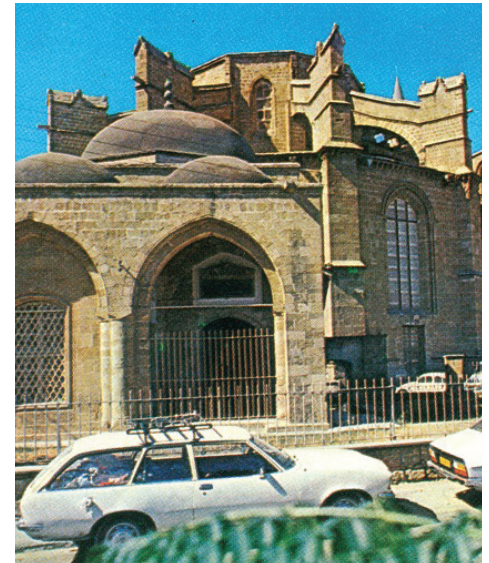
### Books and Donations

The foundation of the library's collection was formed by approximately 200 books donated by Sultan Mahmud himself. Subsequently, it became a central treasury of knowledge with more than

1600 books, with works moved from old libraries such as Hagia Sophia and Arap Ahmet in Nicosia and donations made by the public. These books include rare manuscripts, copies of the Qur'an, hadith, fiqh, history and literature.

### Destruction and Renovation Process

With the transition from Ottoman to British Colonial rule, the library was transferred to the Education Department. However, from the 1920s onwards, the library suffered from neglect, the books were damaged and the neglect of the building increased. In the 1950s, with the initiatives of the Department of Houses and Antiquities, maintenance and repair works were started; the books were temporarily moved to the Cyprus Museum, but some of them did not return. Today, there are 1283 manuscripts and 549 printed books in the library archive. These artefacts were later transferred to the Kyrenia National Archives Department.



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